

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 2 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-16 have been amended. No new matter is added.

Claims 17 and 18 have been added and no new matter is added.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-18 are pending.

Claim 5 has been objected to and Applicants have amended the claim pursuant to the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Applicants submit the informality has been corrected.

II. Status of the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings/Specification for reference character "61" denoting two separate items. Applicants have amended the Specification to correct the error. Reference "61" only denotes the "surface side sheet" and reference "62" only denotes the "back side sheet" of sub-sheet body 6. Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn. The Specification has been amended to correct the typographical errors. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by way of amendment. Also, the Abstract has been amended to be in conformance with U.S. practice.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Claims 1-5 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/143309 to Glasgow et al. (“Glasgow”).

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glasgow in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,007,906 to Osborn, III et al. (“Osborn, III”).

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glasgow in view of PCT Publication No. WO 99/01093 to Wierlacher et al. (“Wierlacher”).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glasgow in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,137 to Clark et al. (“Clark”).

Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glasgow in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,131,736 to Farris et al. (“Farris”).

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glasgow in view of Wierlacher and further in view of Farris.

The Examiner states that the prior art above, either alone or in combination disclose all the elements of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the element of :

a mini sheet piece being fixed at the right and left side edges of the second back side sheet of the sub-sheet body, which includes an unbonded area of the main sheet body and the sub-sheet body, to form a finger insertion opening between the second back side sheet and the mini sheet piece on the garment side.

The mini sheet piece allows a wearer to insert their fingers into the finger insertion opening when guiding the interlabial pad to and between the labia. In addition, the main sheet body, which has a separated area from the sub-sheet body, is provided to contact the labia. This further allows the

wearer to easily detect the concave and convex shapes of the labia. The ability for precise detection allows the interlabial pad to be worn deep between the labia, which decreases visibility through the wearer garments.

None of Glasgow, Osborn, III, Clark, or Farris, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a mini sheet piece. Wierlacher, while disclosing a mini sheet piece, does not disclose all the elements claimed in claim 1. Specifically, Wierlacher's mini sheet piece is not fixed at the right and left side edges of the second back side effect of the sub-sheet body, which includes an unbonded area of the main sheet body and the sub-sheet body, to form a finger insertion opening between the second back side sheet and the mini sheet piece on the garment side.

Thus, Glasgow, Osborn, III, Clark, Wierlacher, or Farris, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the elements of claim 1. Claims 2 and 10 have been canceled rendering the rejection moot. Claims 3-9, and 11-18 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least based on the arguments above. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

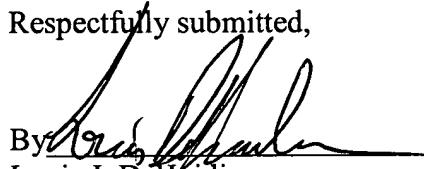
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below once he has reviewed the proposed amendment if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

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